

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2327

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to strengthen polar bear conservation efforts, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2007

Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. LoBIONDO, and Mr. DICKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to strengthen polar bear conservation efforts, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Polar Bear Protection  
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Section 101 of the Marine Mammal Protec-  
2           tion Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1371) established a  
3           moratorium on the importation of marine mammals  
4           and marine mammal products, including the impor-  
5           tation of all sport hunted marine mammal trophies.

6           (2) In 1994, such section was amended to cre-  
7           ate an exemption from the moratorium, which allows  
8           the importation of sport-hunted polar bear trophies  
9           from Canada.

10          (3) This exemption has had the effect of in-  
11          creasing Canadian polar bear mortalities from  
12          United States sport hunters.

13          (4) Polar bears have low reproductive rates,  
14          have long lives, and rely on high adult survival rates  
15          to maintain population numbers. In addition, polar  
16          bear populations are under stress from climate  
17          change and habitat degradation.

18          (5) In July 2005, the World Conservation  
19          Union Polar Bear Specialist Group released its  
20          quadrennial report, in which it reviewed the status  
21          of polar bears and concluded that the species should  
22          be upgraded from “a species of least concern” to  
23          “vulnerable”, based on the “likelihood of an overall  
24          decline in the size of the total population of more  
25          than 30 percent within the next 35 to 50 years”.

1           (6) Based on threats posed to polar bears, on  
2       December 27, 2006, the Department of the Interior  
3       proposed that polar bears be listed under the En-  
4       dangered Species Act of 1973 as threatened species.

5       (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-  
6       lowing:

7           (1) To ensure that citizens of the United States  
8       do not contribute to polar bear mortalities in Can-  
9       ada by removing the exemption in that Act that al-  
10      lows for the Secretary of the Interior to issue per-  
11      mits to United States trophy hunters for the impor-  
12      tation of polar bear trophies from Canada.

13          (2) To heed the warnings of the Department of  
14      the Interior and the World Conservation Union  
15      Polar Bear Specialist Group that polar bears are at  
16      risk and could become endangered, by prohibiting  
17      such importation.

18          (3) To further the goals of the International  
19      Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, to  
20      which all five nations with polar bears within their  
21      borders are a party.

22   **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO PROHIBIT IMPORTATION OF**  
23                   **POLAR BEARS AND POLAR BEAR PARTS.**

24      The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 is  
25   amended—

1 (1) in section 101(a)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(1))

2 by—

3 (A) striking “, or for importation of polar  
4 bear parts (other than internal organs) taken in  
5 sport hunts in Canada.” and inserting “. No  
6 permit may be issued under this Act for the im-  
7 portation of polar bear parts taken in a sport  
8 hunt.”;

9 (B) striking “, except permits issued under  
10 section 104(c)(5),”; and

11 (C) striking “, other than importation  
12 under section 104(c)(5),”;

13 (2) in section 104(c) (16 U.S.C. 1374(c))—

14 (A) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking  
15 “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph  
16 (9)”;

17 (B) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking  
18 “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph  
19 (9)”;

20 (C) by striking paragraph (5); and

21 (D) by redesignating (6) through (10) as  
22 paragraphs (5) through (9); and

23 (3) in section 104(e)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
24 1374(e)(1))—

- 1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or”
- 2 after the comma at the end;
- 3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “,
- 4 or” and inserting a period; and
- 5 (C) by striking subparagraph (C).

